

21 April 1960

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NOTE BY THE SECRETARIES

to the

HOLDERS OF J.C.S. 1907/262 - *9172 Berlin / 1110 (2 July 8)*
 (Reduction of Berlin Garrison (2))

In a memorandum for the Secretary of State, dated 15 April 1960, on the above subject, a copy of which was furnished the Joint Chiefs of Staff by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Defense stated:

"At a recent meeting of the Quadripartite Germany-Berlin Working Group, the question of the size of the Allied garrison forces in Berlin was raised. In order to provide the Department of State with current views on this subject, the JCS were asked to re-examine their previous views and recommendations on this subject (JCSM-264-59,* 8 July 1959), which had been transmitted to you by letter** on 15 July 1959. As a result of this re-examination, which was completed on 25 March 1960, the JCS have concluded that the opinions and recommendations set forth in JCSM-264-59 remain valid. ★

"I agree with this affirmation of the JCS, and join with them in stating that I perceive no fundamental change in the threat to the freedom and safety of Berlin. Recent developments, including statements of Mr. Khrushchev, do not

* Enclosure "A" to J.C.S. 1907/215

** See Note to Holders of J.C.S. 1907/215, dated 17 July 1959

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indicate any modification of the long-term objectives of the Soviet Union with respect to Germany and Berlin, nor do they foreshadow any lessening of Communist control in East Germany. Under such circumstances a reduction in the size of the Berlin garrison would lessen, perhaps critically, the capability of the Allied forces to cope with Communist inspired civil disturbances including the ability to protect U.S. personnel and their dependents. Such a reduction would also symbolize a decrease in the interest of the Western Powers in Berlin and could lead to an erosion of their already insecure position.

"I strongly believe that the U.S. and Allied forces in Berlin should be maintained at their present strengths, which represent a minimum balance of force to maintain our objectives there."

H. L. HILLYARD,
F. J. BLOUIN,
Joint Secretariat.